

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INT-08 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /152 W
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R 080952Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9109

INFO HICOMTERPACIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN TRAVEL

REF: STATE 002652

SUMMARY: GOJ HAS TO LIMITED DEGREE TIGHTENED CONTROLS
ON TOURISM EXPENDITURE AND INFORMALLY DISCOURAGING CHARTER
TRAVEL FROM JAPAN. END SUMMARY

1. ECONCOM/MIN TOOK OCCASION TO RAISE QUESTION POSSIBLE
RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN TRAVEL BY GOJ WITH VICE MINISTER
OF FINANCE INAMURA ON JANUARY 8 DURING DISCUSSION OF ANOTHER
SUBJECT.

2. INAMURA STATED CURRENT FUEL SHORTAGE AND DETERIORATION
OF JAPANESE BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS SITUATION HAS CAUSED GOJ
TO REINSTATE \$3,000 LIMITATION PER TRAVELER FOR TOURISM
EXPENDITURE. (THIS AMOUNT CAN BE OBTAINED
AUTOMATICALLY FROM ANY FOREIGN EXCHANGE BANK. ADDITIONAL
AMOUNT CAN BE OBTAINED ONLY AFTER APPLICATION TO BANK OF
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JAPAN.) IN ADDITION FINANCE MINISTRY BELIEVED THAT SOME

CURTAILMENT IN CHARTER FLIGHTS IN 1974 FEASIBLE IN LIGHT
RAPID EXPANSION SUCH FLIGHTS LAST YEAR. MINISTRY HAS
THUS REQUESTED THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION "USE ITS
INFLUENCE" TO REDUCE NUMBER OF SUCH FLIGHTS. MOST ACTIONS
ALONG THESE LINES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TOKYO 16701 AND COMMERCE/
USTS CABLE NOV. 20. TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY APPROACHING JAL
AND PERHAPS OTHER AIRLINES WITH REQUEST THAT THEY LIMIT PRO-
MOTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR SUCH FLIGHTS. IN RESPONSE ECONCOM/
MIN'S INQUIRY, INAMURA STATED HE UNDERSTOOD THE TRANSPORT MINISTRY
WAS THINKING THAT SAME NUMBER OF CHARTERS THAT TOOK PLACE IN
1973 WOULD BE REASONABLE OBJECTIVE FOR 1974.

3. ECONCOM/MIN STATED HIS INSTRUCTIONS MERELY CALLED FOR
HIM TO ASCERTAIN FACTS. HE WAS CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT
WASHINGTON WOULD BE CONCERNED BY ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS,
PARTICULARLY THE RESTRICTION ON CHARTER TRAVEL, SINCE THE
ECONOMY OF GUAM HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON JAPANESE TOURISM
AND CONSIDERABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT THERE BASED
ON EXPECTATION OF INCREASED JAPANESE TRAVEL. THE SITUATION
THAT GUAM FINDS ITSELF IN WOULD THUS BE APPRECIABLY
DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES FOR WHICH
JAPANESE TOURISM WOULD BE ONLY A RELATIVELY SMALL
FACTOR IN OVERALL ECONOMIC WELL BEING. ECONCOM/MIN ALSO
NOTED THAT HAWAIIAN ECONOMY MIGHT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED
TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RESTRAINTS
WOULD BE REMOVED AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. INAMURA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF POINTS MADE BY
EMBASSY AND STATED HE WOULD KEEP THEM IN MIND IN
CONSIDERING ASPECTS OVERALL TOURISM RESTRAINTS. HE THEN
NOTED THAT SEVERAL HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL SENIOR LDP
POLITICIANS FOR SOME TIME HAD BEEN CONCERNED AT WHAT
THEY REGARDED AS "UNFAVORABLE IMAGE FOR JAPAN" CAUSED BY
FLOODS OF JAPANESE TOURISTS WHO TRAVEL EN MASSE IN TOUR
GROUPS. THESE SENIOR LDP POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN SEEKING
FOR SOME TIME TO LIMIT SUCH TRAVEL AND THE CURRENT FUEL
SHORTAGE PROBLEM AND BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS SITUATION STRONGLY
STRENGTHENED THEIR HAND. INAMURA ASSURED ECONCOM/MIN
THAT FINANCE MINISTRY CONTINUED STRONGLY TO SUPPORT
FREEDOM OF TOURISM AND HOPED TO AVOID ANY FURTHER
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SIGNIFICANT RESTRAINTS.

5. EMBASSY WILL DISCUSS QUESTION FURTHER WITH MINISTRY
OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS TO SEE WHETHER WE CAN
OBTAIN ANY DETAILED INFORMATION ON HOW CHARTER
"ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE" RESTRAINTS BEING CARRIED OUT.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLIES, TOURISM, EXPENDITURES, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, JET FUEL, TRAVEL CONTROLS, AIR SCHEDULES, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO00200
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740155/aaaabzxx.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 002652
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <25 APR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN TRAVEL
TAGS: ETRD, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005